

Hendon given a fright by weak Wycombe

Sports Mail Special Report

HENDON 2, WYCOMBE WAND. 1

AN opportunist goal by Lowen gave Isthmian League contenders Hendon a shock, but weakened Wycombe could not hold on to their interval lead and finally went down 2-1.

Hendon: Swannell; M Williams, Ellison; Walker, Sleep, Knox; Churchill, Pudney, Slade, O'Rourke, Hyde.

Wycombe Wan.: Bunting; Beck, Pullin; Maharg, Roystone, Lewis; French, Horseman, Lowen, Balson, T Williams.

Referee: J. E. Knight (Bromley).

With Worley and Hodges on county duty and Patrick having injured a finger in a mid-week game, Wycombe were forced to make changes, and Bunting, Williams and French came in.

Bunting was in action directly, rushing out to fly kick away from O'Rourke then Pullin headed away a dangerous cross.

A long ball found Slade, clear and he twice beat Roystone before hitting a tremendous drive which Bunting somehow stopped at the second attempt.

In the next Hendon attack O'Rourke completely missed with only Bunting to beat.

After 22 minutes Wycombe took a surprise lead when Williams crossed the ball and for Lowen to nip in and head into the net as the defence hesitated.

FURIOUS ATTEMPT

Wycombe's attack looked dangerous when it did break away and this goal made them even more determined. Lowen and Beck both had good shots saved. Hendon made a furious attempt five minutes before half-time but Pudney's shot hit Bunting on the chest and was cleared.

Half - time: Hendon 0, Wycombe Wanderers 1.

Hendon made the first break of the second half but Churchill shot high over from right in front. The game which had always been tough flared up in the 51st minute when Roystone floored Churchill inside the box.

KNOX made no mistake from the spot to put Hendon level. Four minutes later O'ROURKE latched on to a Slade pass after a corner and slammed home a shot to put Hendon in the lead.

French was the most dangerous Wycombe forward and his strength and speed pulled him through many tough situations. But the left flank was out of touch.

RESULT:

HENDON 2
WYCOMBE WANDERERS 1

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COLIN BUNTING, Wycombe Wanderers third team goalkeeper, gave a superb display in this Isthmian League match and made three sensational saves to prevent Wycombe suffering a heavier defeat. Wycombe survived early Hendon pressure and took a shock lead after 24 minutes when centre-forward Peter Lowen headed home a cross from left-wing Williams. Tempers became frayed before Hendon equalised seven minutes after the interval when right-half Tony Knox scored from the penalty spot. Scottish international inside-left Gerry O'Rourke, Hendon's most dangerous forward, hammered in the winner four minutes later following a corner by Hyde.